

CLAIMS

1. A storage network comprising:

an automated storage system including data access drives and transfer robotics;

a plurality of interface controllers operatively associated with the data access drives and transfer robotics;

an interface manager communicatively coupled to each of the plurality of interface controllers; and

computer-readable program code provided in computer-readable storage at the interface manager, the computer-readable program code aggregating configuration information for the data access drives and transfer robotics.

2. The storage network of claim 1 wherein the computer-readable program code includes a pipeline to route management commands to the plurality of interface controllers.

3. The storage network of claim 1 wherein the computer-readable program code includes a command router to format transactions for the interface controllers.

4. The storage network of claim 1 wherein the computer-readable program code includes a management application program interface (API) to generate management commands for the plurality of interface controllers.

5. The storage network of claim 4 wherein the management API generates at least the following management commands: reboot, interrogate, and status.
6. The storage network of claim 4 wherein the management API generates a logical map of the automated storage system.
7. The storage network of claim 4 wherein the management API schedules access to the data access drives and transfer robotics.
8. The storage network of claim 1 wherein the computer-readable program code includes a device manager to communicate with the plurality of interface controllers.
9. The storage network of claim 1 further comprising a transaction manager for sequencing transactions at the interface manager.
10. The storage network of claim 1 further comprising a logical map of the automated storage system, the logical map generated by the interface manager.
11. The storage network of claim 10 wherein the data access drives and transfer robotics are identified by a fibre channel port and logical units (LUNs) in the logical map.

- 12.** A method comprising:
- receiving device information from a plurality of interface controllers operatively associated with storage system devices;
 - generating a logical map identifying at least some of the storage system devices based on the device information; and
 - assigning the logical map to at least one host for access to the storage system devices.
- 13.** The method of claim 12 further comprising aggregating configuration information from each of the storage system devices for the logical map.
- 14.** The method of claim 12 further comprising propagating management commands to each of the plurality of interface controllers.
- 15.** The method of claim 12 further comprising routing transactions from the at least one host to at least one of the interface controllers.
- 16.** The method of claim 12 further comprising formatting transactions from the at least one host for a designated interface controller.
- 17.** The method of claim 12 further comprising scheduling access by the at least one host to the storage system devices.

18. The method of claim 12 further comprising identifying the storage system devices in the logical map as logical units (LUNs).

19. An automated storage system comprising:

control means for controlling a plurality of system devices in the automated storage system;

software means for aggregating configuration information for the control means; and

interfacing means for interfacing between the control means and the software means.

20. The automated storage system of claim 19 wherein the interfacing means includes means for sequencing transactions to the control means.

21. A storage network comprising:

an automated storage system including data access drives and transfer robotics;

a plurality of interface controllers operatively associated with the data access drives and transfer robotics;

an interface manager communicatively coupled to each of the plurality of interface controllers, the interface manager aggregating configuration information for the data access drives and transfer robotics; and

a pipeline provided as computer readable program code in computer-readable storage at the interface manager, the pipeline including:

a command router to format transactions for the interface controllers;

a management application program interface (API) to generate management commands for the plurality of interface controllers; and

a device manager to communicate with the plurality of interface controllers.

22. The storage network of claim 21 wherein the management API generates at least the following management commands: reboot, interrogate, and status.

23. The storage network of claim 21 wherein the management API generates a logical map of the automated storage system.

24. The storage network of claim 21 wherein the management API schedules access to the data access drives and transfer robotics.